

Todd J. O'Malley | Fire Investigator, CFEI

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Professional Summary:

Retired Law Enforcement and Fire Cause & Origin Professional with thirty years of exemplary service with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, Envista Forensics, Jensen Hughes and EFI Global where expertise encompasses planning and conducting of investigations involving a broad range of civil and criminal activity. I have an extensive background in both criminal and civil fire investigations. My background includes large/complex loss management and investigations that have involved long duration deployments and team responses. I have investigated large losses at pool chemical distribution centers, pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing facilities, energy plants including natural gas and other alternative fuel explosions, multi residential complexes and large retail centers. I am a talented and safety-oriented building and fire code inspector specializing in fire inspection/suppression and plan review work combined with thorough knowledge of various codes for both building, fire, health and safety issues and other related ordinances and regulations. Competent in applying technical knowledge and follow proper inspection techniques to examine workmanship and materials, and detect deviations from plans, regulations and standard construction practices. Ability to inspect and identify violations of regulations governing signs, building occupancy, building sites, and related matters to ensure compliance. Adept in recognizing faulty construction or hazardous conditions pertaining to building construction and structural stability of buildings through review of plans or on-site inspections. Possess considerable knowledge of the standard methods, techniques, materials, tools and equipment employed in the building construction trades with emphasis on extensive experience involving large commercial projects. Able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with politicians, developers, contractors, architects, engineers, code officials and related city/township staff. I am an outstanding leader with a firm but fair attitude and a reputation for honesty, loyalty and integrity. I have managed over one thousand large/complex fire, explosion and environmental scenes which involved the coordination of interviews, warrants, local/state politicians, municipal inspectors, fire departments and State & Federal Agencies. I am a very productive team member whose career was characterized by highly developed analytical, investigative, communicative skills, a high rate of convictions, and the demonstrated capacity to achieve objectives in the following areas:

Investigations:

Considerable experience in planning and conducting investigations relative to various illegal activity, not limited to the trafficking of controlled dangerous substances, arson, sex crimes, juvenile crimes, environmental crimes, fugitive apprehension, special investigations, insurance fraud and computer-related crimes.

- One of the challenging aspects of fire investigations is the multi-disciplinary basis that fires can be caused by or involve many ignition sources and fuels, as an experienced Fire Investigator, I not only possess knowledge of the science of fire behavior, but also have a working understanding of many different areas of study including construction, electricity, human behavior, and mechanical devices.
- Testified numerous times as an "Expert" in Criminal Superior Court cases, Grand Jury and Civil proceedings, which involved fires that are accidental and incendiary in nature.

- Staked out areas of alleged criminal activity. Personally, monitored suspects through keen observation and surveillance skills, as well as equipped fellow officers with undercover audio and video equipment.
- Applied diverse interviewing and interrogation techniques in compiling data and taking statements from witnesses and other individuals with knowledge relevant to cases under investigation.
 - Constructed cases for the prosecution based upon empirical evidence and focusing on identification and conviction of culpable parties.
 - Respond to identified emergency situations, exercising sound judgment in prioritizing and addressing numerous adverse events.
 - My duties include the daily usage of informational resources, public records along with social networking websites, which allows me to verify information. These tools allow me to also uncover potentially unknown and pertinent information about the property or individual as it pertains to the loss. I analyze coverage, credit reports, financial records, maintenance receipts and cellular phone records in order to address financial strain or mechanical motives.
 - Investigate illegal activity in assigned areas to prevent infraction of municipal, State, and Federal regulations and protect governmental, commercial, and private property as well as natural resources.

Administrative Support:

Significant experience in providing administrative support to all law enforcement operations, support staff and civilian personnel.

- “Team Leader” of the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office “Arson Response Team” where I maintained seven (7) employees under my command. Throughout my various assignments over a twenty-five career, I have always maintained the responsibilities as the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office “Arson Investigator”.
- Continually advancing my fire investigation skills through the use of scientific methodology, the basic method of fire investigation, and a systematic approach as discussed in the past editions and the current 2020 Edition of NFPA 921 *Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations* and the 2017 Edition of NFPA 1033 *Guide for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*.
- Ensured compliance with established standards of performance and service, applicable policies and procedures, and governmental regulations.
- Collaborated productively with many other police departments and State and Federal law enforcement agencies in accomplishing common objectives during investigations.
- Assisted all Local, County, State and Federal agencies across the country in the apprehension and or the extradition of wanted persons
- Maintain all records involving the semi-annual “Basic Arson Investigations Course” conducted by the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice for all Middlesex County local police departments for the past ten (10) years.

Licenses and Certifications:

Certified Level (3) Hazardous Materials Technician

Basic Course for Police Officers (Public Training Commission Certification)

Advanced Course for Investigators (New Jersey State Police)

Certified “Firefighter” in the State of New Jersey

National Association of Fire Investigators NAFI-CFEI “Certified Fire & Explosives Investigator”

National Association of Fire Investigators NAFI-CVFI “Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator”

Completed Building/Fire Inspector Certification Course at the Middlesex County Fire, Academy in Sayreville, New Jersey, on June 22, 2017, and qualified as a “New Jersey Certified Building/Fire Inspector”

Professional Experience:

EFI Global, Inc., Fire Investigator, November 2022 – Present

Fire Investigator specializing in fire origin and cause investigations for residential, commercial, industrial and vehicle claims, subrogation and liability claims. Responsible for fire scene excavation, evidence collection and chain of custody, fire damage diagramming, witness interviews, photographic documentation and report writing.

Technical Fire Analysis, Fire & Explosion Investigator, June 2021 – August 2022

Fire Investigator specializing in fire origin and cause investigations for residential, commercial, industrial and vehicle claims, subrogation and liability claims.

Jensen Hughes Forensic Division, Sr. Fire Investigator, March 2020 – May 2021

Fire Investigator specializing in fire origin and cause investigations for residential, commercial, industrial and vehicle claims. Inspect existing buildings and premises for change of use, occupancy, or compliance with applicable codes and ordinances. Inspect foundation, concrete, steel, masonry, wood construction, framing, plastering, plumbing, heating and electrical installations and a large variety of other complex and routine building system elements. Issue notices for violation compliance; maintain records of history of facts for possible legal actions.

Envista Forensics, Fire & Explosion Division, Sr. Consultant, March 2017 – March 2020

Conducted multidisciplinary investigations which drew upon my expertise in fire science, engineering and chemistry in order to find the cause, and communicated my findings in a clear, concise manner that can be readily understood by non-technical individuals. Provide exemplary customer service to all individuals by demonstrating a willingness to be attentive, understanding, responsive, fair, courteous and respectful, and to actively participate in maintaining a positive customer service environment. Inspect commercial, industrial and residential buildings during various stages of demolition, construction and remodeling to ensure compliance with applicable codes, ordinances and regulations.

Middlesex County Fire Academy NJ Building/Fire Inspector Certification Course,
March 2017 – June 2017

Qualified/Tested as a “New Jersey Certified Building/Fire Inspector”

Provide quality residential/commercial inspections based on city/township ordinances and the International Code Council (ICC) International Residential and Building Codes. Inspect existing buildings for change of use or occupancy for compliance with applicable codes and ordinances. Performed on-site inspections of residential new construction, renovation and structural building activities. Read specifications and blueprints, evaluated site work and ensured projects were

completed in accordance with approved plans. Inspected soil, structure, fire safety factors, footings, framing, insulation, ventilation, etc.

Self Employed Landscaping Design & Build Company, March 1990 – Present

Work collaboratively with clients to facilitate low-maintenance solutions in all phases of the landscape design and work as well as advance master plans/ small area/corridor plans, develop site plans, manage and implement all improvements.

- High experience base in landscape and groundskeeping work
- Excellent familiarity with a variety of trees, plant types and turf management
- Strong expertise in operating small and large hand and motorized garden and landscaping tools
- Superior ability to work in a variety of extreme outdoor temperatures
- Exceptional ability to lift objects weighing up to 75 pounds
- Good prioritizing and organizing skills
- Sound communication and interpersonal skills

Middlesex County Environmental Health Department, Solid Waste Mgt. & Planning Dept., Environmental Health Specialist, March 1991 – August 1992

Professional Law Enforcement Experience

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, April 1992 – December 2016

- Detective, Special Investigations Unit – Insurance Fraud (04/12 - 12/16)
- Detective, "Team Leader" of the Arson Response Team (04/12 - 12/16)
- Detective, Juvenile Crimes Unit / Arson Unit (10/11 - 03/12)
- Investigator, Fugitive Apprehension Unit / Arson Unit (08/04 - 9/11)
- Investigator, Middlesex County Narcotics, Organized Crime Task Force (01/02 - 08/04)
- Investigator, Arson/Environmental Crimes Unit (01/98 - 12/16)
- Investigator, Vertical Teams Unit / Arson Unit (06/97 - 12/97)
- Investigator, Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Crimes Unit / Arson Unit (09/96 - 05/97)
- Investigator, Arson/Environmental Crimes Unit (01/95 – 8/97)
- Investigator, Vertical Teams Unit (01/94 - 12/94)

Middlesex County Police Training Academy, Police Officer Recruit August 1993 – December 1993

Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

Specialized Education:

2020 International Association of Arson Investigators "Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator Course" (November 18-20, 2020)

2019 International Association of Arson Investigators Annual Conference (March 6-8, 2019)

Asbestos Training Course – Safety Unlimited, Inc.

2018 International Association of Arson Investigators Annual Conference (March 5-8, 2018)

Completed Building/Fire Inspector Certification Course at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, Sayreville, New Jersey and qualified as a "New Jersey Certified Fire Inspector" (April 2017 – June 2017)

Atlantic County Fire-Arson Investigators Association, Fatal Fire Investigation (September 19-20, 2016)

2016 International Association of Arson Investigators Annual Conference (March 9-11, 2016)

2015 International Association of Arson Investigators Annual Conference, (March 4-6, 2015)

Arson Scene Search and Evidence Recovery, Public Training Agency Counsel (November 12-13, 2014)

Hands On Vehicle Fire/Arson Investigation, Public Training Agency Counsel (June 30 – July 2, 2014)

Advanced Marine Fire Investigation Course (May 29-30, 2014)

Advanced Vehicle Fire Investigations (June 30-July 2, 2014)

Advanced Arson Scene Search & Recovery (November 12-13, 2014)

FBI National Improvised Explosives Course (September 26-27, 2013)

10th Annual Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Conference

Kean University & New Jersey Division of Fire Safety (November 29-30, 2012)

2011 International Association of Arson Investigators Annual Conference (March 2-4, 2011)

Public Service Electric & Gas, Investigation of Natural Gas Explosions (September 21-22, 2011)

Post Blast Investigation Course, New Jersey State Police (September 31-25, 2009)

FBI Advanced Interview & Interrogation Course (January 21-22, 2009)

Advanced Criminal Investigations, U.S. Department of Justice, FBI (September 11-15, 2006)

Advanced Fire and Explosives Investigation Training

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (June 12-15, 2006)

Advanced Statement Analysis Training (March 4, 2004)

2002 Advanced Arson Annual Training Seminar, Atlantic City, NJ (March 27-30, 2002)

Graduate, Level 3 Hazardous Materials Technician Training Course (May 1 –11, 2000)

Level 5-On Scene Incident Command Certification Course (May 1, 2000)

Field Interviewing & Advanced Interview & Interrogation Techniques

Wicklander – Zulawski & Associates (September 29 – October 1, 1999)

Firefighter 1, New Jersey Certified Firefighter, Middlesex County Fire Academy Sayreville, NJ (February 6 – May 8, 1998)

The Reid Method of Criminal Interviews & Interrogations (October 28 – 30, 1996)

Advanced Environmental Crimes Investigation Course, NJ Division of Criminal Justice, For Dix, New Jersey (September 25 – 29, 1995)

Fatal Fire Investigations Seminar & Conference, International Association of Arson Investigators, Atlantic City, NJ (January 26, 27, 1995)

Basic Course for Arson Investigators, New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice (September 20 – October 20, 1994)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Hazardous Materials Response Operations" (January 25 – 29, 1993)

Education:

Bachelor of Science Degree, Rutgers University, Cook College, 1990

Affiliations:

30-year member of the NJ Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators
30-year member of the International Association of Arson Investigators
Member of the National Association of Fire Investigators
Member of the Middlesex County Fire Prevention & Protection Association
Member of the PGA (Professional Golfers Association)

Honors and Awards:

Qualified numerous times as a "Fire Origin & Cause Expert" in Superior Court Criminal Trials, Grand Jury and Civil Proceedings
Made Dean's List during the 1989 & 1990 Semesters at Rutgers University
Received a Humanitarian Service Award from the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for service during the September 11, 2001, Terrorist Attacks
Assistant Golf Professional at Glenwood Country Club, Old Bridge, New Jersey, (1990-1991)